

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORTTOPIC Volkspolizei Bereitschaften of Land Thuringia

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 January 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

General.

1. The following VP Bereitschaften of Land Thuringia were identified in October 1950:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1st VP Bereitschaft (Arty)	Erfurt (M 51/J 36)	Some of the weapons of the unit were still stored at the Opel Plant, Brandenburg (M 53/Z 23).
2nd VP Bereitschaft	Langensalza (M 52/J 08)	
5th VP Bereitschaft	Erfurt, Petersberg Kaserne	The unit had telephone number 7833/34 of the Erfurt civilian net until 10 October, but has been connected with a VP net under construction since that time.
6th VP Bereitschaft	Gotha (M 51/J 06)	
7th VP Bereitschaft	Muehlhausen (M 52/H 09)	
10th VP Bereitschaft	Apolda (M 52/J 67)	

10th VP Bereitschaft of Land Thuringia.

2. The 10th VP Bereitschaft, an infantry unit, was located next to the spinning mill on Nordstrasse, Apolda. It had telephone No 429. The unit actually had 38 officers and 700 police, compared with an authorized strength of 60 officers and 1,000 police. It was organized into the headquarters, a Sonderkommando, and three Kommandos.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.	05
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Auth: HR 70-2	
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## 3. The personnel of the 10th VP Bereitschaft included:

VP Oberrat Wilhelm Walter - Commanding officer

VP Oberrat Yona (fnu) - Soviet liaison officer, speaks broken German, replaced VP Kommandeur Tsillikov (fnu), who was recently transferred to Brandenburg.

VP Rat Karl Meister - Liaison officer to the Hauptverwaltung fuer Ausbildung (Main Administration for Training) (HVA).

VP Oberwachmeister Reinhold Moehrke - SSD representative,

VP Rat Hans Schinner - Operations officer

VP Rat Fritz Peter - Training officer

VP Rat Hans Gruendel - PK officer, released as Soviet PW in September 1949,

VP Kommissar Guenther Braune - Cultural activities officer

VP Oberkommissar Helmut Raak - Commanding officer of 1st Kommando

VP Rat Heinz Mainisch - Acting commander and PK officer of 2nd Kommando, a member of the VVN

VP Meister Erich Sommer - Commander of 4th Kommando

VP Kommissar Gerngross (fnu) - Commanding officer of Sonderkommando

VP Oberkommissar Herbert Gressmann - Administrative and supply officer

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4. The 10th VP Bereitschaft was equipped with 20 model 42 machine guns, 3 water-cooled German machine guns, 12 80-mm mortars, 300 model 44 submachine guns, and 700 rapid-fire rifles. The unit was equipped with one Horch truck; four ZIS trucks; 8 passenger cars, most of them Opel Olympias; and 3 motorcycles of Soviet origin.
5. The 10th VP Bereitschaft was an infantry unit engaged in thorough basic infantry training and special training in accompanying tanks. For the latter type of training, the Kommandos were detached for one or two weeks to a camp in the woods at Jena-Napoleonstein, where they were trained under the supervision of Soviet instructors and together with Soviet tanks. Field exercises and small-scale combat exercises were held under Soviet supervision several times a year.
6. About 150 members of the 10th VP Bereitschaft, including all officers, belonged to the SED, while 10 belonged to the NDP, and 1 to the LDP.
7. The ordnance school and ordnance replacement center for the 10th VP Bereitschaft were located in Suhl (N 51/J 02). \*

\* Comment. The information on VP Bereitschaften of Land Thuringia agrees with available information. The data on personnel and weapons of the 10th VP Bereitschaft confirm reports

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personnel practiced with Soviet tank troops near Jena, where a tank regiment of the 20th Sds Leez Div is possibly stationed.

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